

# AGRICULTURAL LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM

## Fee Update



State Water Resources Control Board  
May 1, 2018 – Item 8

# Background

- FY 2017-18 Fee Schedule Adoption Item at Sept 19, 2017

## Board Meeting:

- Stakeholder comments in opposition to the existing fee methodology (per acre fee)
- Board direction to staff to form a stakeholder workgroup to discuss fee methodology alternatives

# Stakeholder Workgroup

- Division of Administrative Services (DAS) staff solicited feedback from State and Regional Board program staff
- Met with stakeholders (via teleconference) to organize the workgroup and lay the groundwork
- Data and administrative support provided by Division of Water Quality and DAS staff

# Stakeholder Workgroup Meetings

- First Meeting – December 4, 2017
- Second Meeting – February 1, 2018
- Staff Workshop – March 16, 2018 - CANCELLED

# Alternative Methodologies

- Previously proposed by staff and stakeholders:
  - Per acre (current)
  - Per acre with a minimum and maximum amount by grower
  - Tiered fee by total coalition acres
  - Fee based on Threat to Water Quality (TTWQ) and/or Complexity (CPLX)
  - Regional-specific fee based on coalition, individual grower or a combination
  - WDR (coalition)-specific
  - Commodity-specific based on impact
- Also discussed: alternative funding sources, discounts and surcharges

# Stakeholder Feedback

- Majority support for keeping the existing fee methodology (per acre fee)
- Based on workgroup feedback, staff will propose no changes to the methodology for FY 2018-19
- California Rice Commission (Rice Commission) proposal submitted separately from workgroup effort

# Rice Commission Proposal

- Submitted separately from the workgroup effort
- Specific to the Rice Commission WDR
- Methodology based on:
  - Demonstrated historical low impact to surface and ground water quality
  - Unique nature of the crop results in less time and resources expended by Regional Board staff
- Would reduce Rice Commission WDR fee by approximately 15-20 cents per acre and increase fees for all other Ag Lands dischargers by approximately 1-2 cents per acre

### Estimated Changes in Workload

Program	Number of Acres (Ag) or Invoices					Total % Change
	FY 13-14	FY 14-15	FY 15-16	FY 16-17	FY 17-18	
Ag Lands	5,281	6,173	6,255	6,837	6,878	30%
SW Industrial	8,902	8,931	8,148	8,360	9,362	5%
NPDES	1,516	1,476	1,405	1,270	1,455	-4%

### Staffing (PYs) by Program

Program	FY 13-14	FY 14-15	FY 15-16	FY 16-17	FY 17-18	% Change
Ag Lands	21.7	21.7	23.1	23.1	28.1	29%
WDR	76.8	83.4	80.5	80.6	80.6	5%
Land Disp	34.0	34.0	32.4	32.4	32.4	-5%
SW	81.9	81.9	82.4	82.7	82.7	1%
NPDES	90.3	90.3	88.4	88.4	88.4	-2%



# Moving Forward

- Ongoing Agricultural Lands program fee evaluation
- General stakeholder process
  - Upcoming General Fee Stakeholder Meetings:
    - June 14 and August 2